ABSTRACT

[0037] A process for managing an instant messaging or chat room session provides an automated real-time status of the activity of a participant currently disengaged from the messaging session. Throughout the messaging session, the status a participant is continuously determined, and a status indicator indicating the current action of the participant is sent to the other participant. The instant messaging application, other system applications and all interconnected hardware are monitored for user activity. Detected user activity is interpreted into a status indicator, which is transmitted to the other participant and displayed on the recipient's computer in a preferred format.